

FAREWELL TO KEITH BLUNT

Wycombe W. 3, Dusseldorf S.S. '99 1

KEITH BLUNT, not expected to play again for Wycombe Wanderers, nonetheless turned out against the German tourists on Thursday evening—and marked his farewell outing with a superb goal, plus the kind of attack-minded performance which first established him in the Wycombe Wanderers squad.

After a poor end to the competitive season and a recent operation on a broken nose, Blunt made every effort to bow out on a happier note—and struck the right key from the kick-off, adopting a midfield role à la Ted Powell.

Standing off in support of Blues' raids, he always threatened to elude the Germans' defence, despite a fine display by their goalkeeper. Not until the 45th minutes, however, did he succeed. His shot rocketed into goal from the edge of the 'box' to give Wycombe an interval lead.

Until half-time he had been lining up in a defensive position, but with Iain MacLean taking over as substitute for Barry Baker, he moved up into no man's land. Kevin O'Brien also replaced John Maskell in goal.

The Germans, who had a later date with Wycombe's old adversaries, Slough Town, helped turn Thursday's match into a better-than-average 'friendly' and equalised through their centre-forward in the 63rd minute.

But two minutes later, John Delaney passed the ball forward for Johnny Hutchinson to make it 2-1. Wycombe had scorned various chances all the match, but the visitors, too, had their moments of glory up front.

O'Brien was forced to parry the ball spectacularly on to the crossbar, before an over-hurried free kick by the visitors' 'keeper was pounced on by Geoff Anthony for a volley which deflected hard and fast off the German in the 88th minute.

Making a welcome return for the night was former Wycombe favourite Julian Lailey, who impressed in the No. 4 shirt alongside Delaney. Lailey's colleague at Cheltenham, David Lewis, also "guested" and produced the occasional neat touch as centre-forward to indicate how he has become his club's top scorer of the season.